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NUMBER 58.

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HOTEL PORTLAND

The Finest Hotel in the Northwest

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFERED NO RESISTANCE

Christ Benson, the Alleged Murderer, is Captured Near City of Olympia.

TOOK REFUGE IN OLD MILL

Claims He Did Not Kill the Jailor and That He Had No Intention of Doing So—Implicates Others.

Tacoma, March 7.—A special to the Ledger from Olympia, says Christ Benson, the murderer of Jailor Merrell was captured about 9 o'clock tonight by Sheriff Mills and posse at a deserted mill a few miles from the city.

Earlier in the evening Benson was discovered in the mill and the sheriff was summoned. Sheriff Mills unlocked the door and commanded Benson to throw up his hands and come out. The murderer did as he was bid, and offered no resistance. He was brought to Olympia and lodged in jail.

There was some talk of lynching, but no one was willing to act as a leader, and the general sentiment was in favor of allowing the law to take its course.

Benson claims a general jail break had been planned and that he did not kill Jailor Merrell.

Benson, in telling the story of the murder tonight, implicated three other prisoners in the plot to break jail. Straws were drawn to see who should strike the jailer down and take the keys and Benson drew the short straw which designated him as one. He did not intend to kill the jailer and did not strike hard enough to kill him. He says Merrell shot himself accidentally. Benson then in his excitement, got the revolver and shot Merrell twice.

FUNSTON ORDERED EAST

Probably on Consultation on Possible Need of Troops in Alaska.

Denver, March 7.—Brigadier-General Frederick Funston, commanding the department of the Colorado, U. S. A., has received unexpected orders calling him to Washington for a conference with Assistant Secretary of War Sanger. No reason was given for the sudden summons. The general will leave today for Washington accompanied by his personal aide, Lieutenant Mitchell.

The orders caused a revolution in General Funston's arrangements. He was instructed to assume command of the department of the Columbia, embracing Washington, Oregon, Idaho and the whole of Alaska, succeeding General Randall, who sails for the Philippines on April 1. His orders were to reach Vancouver barracks, Washington, the department headquarters, not later than March 10, and he had arranged to leave Denver for the Pacific coast today.

General Funston declined to discuss the new order, or to make any comment on the change in the arrangements. It is believed, however, that the war department has in view extensive plans for the handling of troops in Alaska, in connection with the impending difficulties over the Alaskan boundary question.

NO SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED

Washington, March 7.—It was learned tonight that the coming visit of General Frederick Funston to Washington has no special significance. A number of questions have arisen in the department with respect to the allotments of land belonging to the government and various companies desiring to do business there. As Alaska is under the jurisdiction of the department of Columbia, to which General Funston has been assigned, and General Funston in all likelihood will visit Alaska during the coming season, it was deemed advisable to summon him to Washington for a conference.

STOCK MARKET IN TROUBLE

Wiping Out of Surplus Reserves Threw Things Somewhat Out of Joint.

New York, March 6.—The stock market was thrown into a condition of demoralization today by the disclosure of the fact that the surplus reserve of the

clearing house banks was practically wiped out. Excluding government deposits this was \$66,975 compared with \$3,908,425 at this time last year, and \$10,717,275 two years ago. January returns show that increased gross earnings of railroads are generally almost wiped out by added expenses.

The money situation has forced considerable liquidation in the stock market this week, and prices have made wide declines. Wall Street has rested strongly on the conviction that its money troubles were peculiar to itself, and that the commercial position of the country as a whole is indisputable.

ABOLISH THE GAME

Harvard Professor Says Annual Game With Yale Is Demoralizing to Students.

Boston, March 7.—Professor Ira N. Hollis, chairman of the Harvard Athletic committee, in an article written for the Harvard graduates' magazine, suggests giving up the annual football game with Yale. He thinks Harvard would profit by omitting it. In leading up to this point Professor Hollis reviews at some length the general trend of college athletics, which he maintains are growing better in spirit. He thinks that one fatal thing for good sport is the suspicion which prevails between rival universities. Then, he says, referring to Harvard football, the most demoralizing football game played by Harvard during the year is that with Yale. This has been true for many years with only an occasional lapse into a season of good fellowship. The students of the two universities are, in the main, friendly to one another, but this game seems to arouse their worst impulses. Suspensions are rife, bets are on and studies are practically suspended during the entire week preceding the game. The graduates, too, have their period of excitement and are in large measure responsible for the feverish strain in which the game is played.

"On the whole it would be a good thing to have the game given up and the full schedule shortened by that much or another less strenuous game substituted. Certainly Harvard would profit by it, and our students would take the sport with other teams more in the spirit of fun."

Interviews with both graduates and undergraduates, who have the most to do with Harvard football, fail to show that Professor Hollis' idea of dropping Yale is endorsed.

THREE SOLDIERS RAN AWAY

One Got Captured—Then There Were But Two.

Walla Walla, March 7.—Three soldiers, prisoners, escaped from the guard house at Fort Walla Walla at an early hour this morning by sawing out of their wooden cells.

The men who escaped were Henry G. James, convicted of disorder; Henry G. Nelson, unassigned recruit awaiting trial for desertion from Presidio, and George W. Baker, awaiting trial for desertion.

Henry Nelson was later captured by the Walla Walla police.

SCHLEY AT RIVERSIDE

Takes an Auto Ride Around the Town and Sees the Sights.

Riverside, Calif., March 7.—Admiral Schley and party were guests of citizens of Riverside today. The party was taken for a ride over the city in auto cars. The admiral's party narrowly escaped collision with runaway team on Hayward drive.

Cable From Sound to Alaska

Washington, March 7.—The contract to furnish signal corps of army with about 1100 statute miles of submarine cable to be laid between Puget sound and Alaska, has been awarded to a New York firm. It will be entirely of American manufacture and will be the first long telegraph cable ever made in the United States.

Flat Iron wear out. So do Kingsbury Hats. But it takes a long time. Ask your merchant.

HERMAN WISE,
Sole Agent for Astoria.

FILE THEIR GRIEVANCES

Wabash Employees State the Cause of Their Grievances With the Company.

NOT A QUESTION OF WAGES

Old Schedule Is Violated and Other Wrongs Have Been Done Creating a System of Slavery.

St. Louis, March 7.—John Hoskins, chairman of the general committee Order of Railway Conductors, has made a statement detailing the grievances existing on the system of the Wabash, as follows:

"The real grievance is not a case of wages. A violation of the old schedule is one of the causes of complaint. This is done by the company putting on preferred runs regular crews that get a monthly salary. This cuts the brakemen's pay from 2 cents a mile to about 1-4 cents, conductors from 3 cents to 2 cents, while engineers and firemen receive the same for working on these runs as for any other freight train. But this is not the worst feature of the arrangement. After the company had these runs well established the managers commenced to pile on the abuses so fast that one could hardly believe the orders posted in the bulletin books.

"The first of these was that crews on Detroit and Chicago runs, after running 275 miles, switch out the merchandise and take it down town without additional pay. The next was 101 miles, each way, added to the St. Louis merchandise run, making 202 miles in the round trip additional with an increase of about \$3 per month. This additional mileage alone would make a brakeman \$60.00 per month, as it is a daily run, saying nothing of the 200 miles he had already made.

"The next was the Detroit and Chicago crews, after making 275 miles they would wait at Detroit until cars are received and take them down town before being relieved.

"But this is the straw that broke the camel's back. Not satisfied with all this for nothing they put two engines on and made them handle a dead freight train outside of the high class, and they wonder what we are kicking about. After we work like slaves all winter, in all kinds of weather without rest, often for 60 hours at a stretch, we are told we have nothing to complain of.

"In the spring, when navigation opens up and business drops off, these preferred crews with the big engines can handle about half of the business and the rest of us can eat dried snowballs or wait until nice, cold, stormy weather comes around again, with its sleet and ice on the running board on the top of the cars.

"The Adams injunction even takes away the right to quit the company's service and if made permanent, they can hold men as bonded slaves. Now, I for one, am an O. R. C. man and voted against the strike, but believe in upholding the B. R. T. and B. of L. to the last ditch.

"John Hoskins, Chairman General Committee, O.R.C."

AGENT WAS DISHONEST

Allowed Valuable Property to Go for Taxes and Then Bought It In.

Denver, March 7.—The Bon Home Mining company of New Orleans, of which C. M. Saria is president, has filed suit in the United States district court here against James Steinbeck to recover possession of certain mining claims said to be worth at least \$500,000. Steinbeck, the complainant alleges, was the sole representative of the company in Colorado. He is charged with having allowed several of the company's most valuable claims to be sold for taxes and fraudulently securing to himself title thereto by purchasing the tax sale certificates.

The Seattle Gold Mining & Milling company and L. F. Twitchell, with whom it is alleged a partially completed deal for the transfer of the property has been made, are parties to the suit.

AMERICAN IN SIBERIA

Expelled By Russian Government for Philanthropy.

Boston, March 7.—The Poles of Boston are greatly excited over the news just received from Europe that Wil-

liam Miller of Boston has been arrested by the Russian government and expelled to Siberia.

Miller has been recently engaged in endeavoring to educate the Poles wherever they may be and he had not confined his work to Russia alone.

Various societies of well-to-do Poles have contributed funds to his care for this purpose and it was the accounts of this money and not the money that was found on his person, that caused his arrest.

His Boston compatriots declare that Miller had no revolutionary motives and that his sole motive was to educate and assist Polish immigrants who, upon landing in America, are detailed by the inspectors and often sent back owing to their lack of education.

A mass meeting will be held here to protest, Sunday, and Secretary Hay will be asked to act.

Miller, it is declared here, is an American citizen. His real name is Vincente Mikiewicz, but he adopted Miller for convenience. He has been imprisoned for 10 months in St. Petersburg already, according to reports received here.

TROUBLE ON RIO GRANDE

Conductors and Brakemen Will Kick When the Engineers and Firemen Are Through.

Denver, March 7.—The engineers and firemen of the Rio Grande system are waiting for a reply from the Rio Grande officials to their request for a 20 percent increase in wages. This request was made over a week ago.

The conductors and brakemen are waiting their turn and will call on the Rio Grande officials as soon as the engineers and firemen get through.

They expect an early agreement, but it is said they will not be inclined to accept the basis of settlement made at St. Louis and Topeka as they consider work on the mountain roads more difficult than on the plains systems and therefore they think they should have the full 20 percent increase.

Gambling Now Unlawful

Olympia, March 7.—Governor McBride today signed the bill making gambling a felony.

SIXTEEN MEN ARE DROWNED

Boat Loaded Down With Italian Workmen Capsizes on the Hudson River.

RIVER SWOLLEN BY RAINS

Strong Current Sweeps the Men Down Stream—Earnest Effort Is Being Made to Find the Bodies.

Glens Falls, N. Y., March 7.—Nineteen are dead as the result of the capsizing of a boat used by workmen at Splice Falls, N. Y., about 10 miles west of Queens Ferry on the Hudson river.

More than 1000 men are employed there at present in the construction of a power dam of the Hudson River Power company. The laborers and many of the masons are Italians who live in shanties on the north side of the river. The boat is a scow-shaped affair, 20 feet long and 13 feet wide, and is operated by a cable.

This morning 70 or 80 men got aboard of the boat, leaving a big crowd on the bank waiting for the next trip. When a few feet from the shore water splashed against the rail, and a boy who had fallen overboard the previous day, seized one of the tackle ropes which ran from the overhead cabin to the stern of the boat. Some of the men started toward him and instantly the boat careened and tilted.

The Hudson is swollen by the fresh rains and bore a score or more of the struggling men down stream. Many succeeded in catching hold of the boat, which had righted, and they clung there until pulled ashore.

One body has been found. The river for miles is being watched and dragged in the hopes of finding the bodies of the victims. There were but two or three English speaking men on board. The rolls of men were called tonight and everybody has been accounted for except 16, and it is certain that these were drowned.

NEW WAISTINGS

We are showing the latest and nobbiest waistings in Astoria---just arrived from New York. Your inspection invited.

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